

SCOTLAND.

[We make the following selections from a work lately published entitled the *Scotsman's Library* 1
EATTLE OF BANNOCK-BURN, 1314.

The arrangements adopted by King Robert for the decisive battle of Bannock-burn, are given very distinctly by Barbour, and form an edifying lesson to tacticians. Yet, till commented upon by Lord Hailes, this important passage of history has been generally and strangely misunderstood by historians.

Two days before the battle, Bruce selected the field of action, and took post there with his army, consisting of about 30,000 disciplined men, and about half the number of disorderly attendants upon the camp. The ground was called the New Paik of Stirling; it was partly open, and partly broken by copses of wood and marshy ground. He divided his regular forces into front divisions. Three of these occupied a front line, separated from each other, yet sufficiently near for the purposes of communication. The fourth division formed a reserve. The line extended in a north-easterly direction from the brook of Bannock, which is so rugged and broken as to cover the right flank effectually, to the village of Saint Ninian's, probably in the line of the present road from Stirling to Kilsyth. Edward Bruce commanded the right wing, which was strengthened by a strong body of cavalry under Keith, the wareschal of Scotland, to whom was committed the important charge of attacking the English archers; Douglas, and the young Steward of Scotland, led the central wing; and Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, the left wing. The king himself commanded the fourth division, which lay in reserve behind the others. The royal standard was pitched, according to tradition, in a stone, having a round hole for its reception, and thence called the Bore-stone. It is still shown on the top of a small eminence, called Brock's-brae, to the south-west of St. Ninian's. His main body thus disposed, King Robert sent the followers of the camp, fifteen thousand and upwards in number, to the eminence in rear of his army, called, from that circumstance, the *Gillies* (i. e. the servants') *Hill*.

The military advantages of this position were obvious. The Scottish left flank, protected by the brook of Bannock, could not be turned; or, if that attempt were made, a movement by the reserve might have covered it. Again, the English could not pass the Scottish army, and move towards Stirling, without exposing their flank to be attacked while in march.

It only remains to notice the nature of the ground in front of Bruce's line of battle. Being part of a park, or chase, it was considerably interrupted by trees, and an extensive marsh, still visible, in some places rendered it inaccessible, and in all, of difficult approach. More to the northward, where the natural impediments were fewer, Bruce fortified his position against cavalry, by digging a number of pits so close together, says Barbour, as to resemble the cells in a honey-comb. They were a foot in breadth, and between two and three feet deep, many rows of them being placed one behind the other. They were slightly covered with brushwood and green sods, so as not to be obvious to an impetuous enemy.

All the Scottish army were on foot, excepting a select body of cavalry, stationed with Edward Bruce on the right wing, under the immediate command of Sir Robert Keith, the Marshal of Scotland, who were destined for the important service of charging and dispersing the English archers.

Thus judiciously posted, in a situation fortified both by art and nature, Bruce awaited the attack of the English.

The English vanguard, commanded by the Earls of Gloucester and Hereford, came in sight of the Scottish army upon the evening of the 23d of June. Bruce was then riding upon a little palfrey, in front of the foremost line, putting his host in order. It was then that a personal encounter took place between him and Sir Henry de Bohun, a gallant English knight, the issue of which had a great effect upon the spirits of both armies. Sir Henry was slain by one blow of the battle-axe.

The Scotch leaders remonstrated with the king upon his temerity. He only answered, 'I have broken my good battle-axe.' The English vanguard retreated after witnessing this single combat. Probably their generals did not think it advisable to hazard an attack, while its unfavorable issue remained upon their minds.

While the van of the English army advanced, a detached body attempted to relieve Stirling. Lord Hailes gives the following account of this manœuvre, and the result which is accompanied by circumstances highly characteristic of the chivalrous manners of the age, and displays that generosity which reconciles us even to their ferocity upon other occasions.

Bruce had enjoined Randolph, who commanded the left wing of his army to be vigilant in preventing any advanced parties of the English from throwing succours into the castle of Stirling.

Eight hundred horsemen, commanded by Sir Robert Clifford, were detached from the English army; they made a circuit by the low grounds to the east, and approached the castle. The king perceived their motions, and coming up to Randolph, angrily exclaimed, 'Thoughtless man! you have suffered the enemy to pass.' Randolph hastened to repair his fault or perish. As he advanced, the English cavalry wheeled to attack him. Randolph drew up his troops in a circular form, with their spears resting on the ground, and pretended on every side. At the first onset, Sir William Dayne-court, an English commander of distinguished note, was slain. The enemy, far superior in numbers to Randolph, environed him, and pressed hard on his little band. Douglas saw his jeopardy, and requested the king's permission to go and succour him. 'You shall not move from your ground,' cried the king, 'let Randolph extricate himself as he best may. I will not alter my order of battle, and lose the advantage of my position.' 'In truth,' replied Douglas, 'I cannot stand by and see Randolph perish; and therefore, with your leave, I must aid him.' The king unwillingly consented, and Dou-

glas flew to the assistance of his friend. While approaching, he perceived that the English were falling into disorder, and that the perseverance of Randolph had prevailed over their impetuous courage. 'Halt!' cried Douglas, 'those brave men have repulsed the enemy; let us not diminish their glory by sharing it.'

Upon the 24th of June the English army advanced to the attack. The narrowness of the Scottish front, and the nature of the ground, did not permit them to have the full advantage of their numbers. Nor is it very easy to find out what was their proposed order of battle. The vanguard, however, appeared a distinct body, consisting of archers and spearmen on foot, and commanded by the Earls of Gloucester and Hereford.

Maurice, abbot of Inchaffray, placing himself on an eminence, celebrated mass in sight of the Scottish army. He then passed along the front, bare-footed, and bearing a crucifix in his hands, and exhorting the Scots in few and forcible words, to combat for their rights and their liberty. The Scots kneeled down. 'They yield,' cried Edward; 'see, they implore mercy.' 'They do,' answered Ingelram de Umfraville, 'but not ours. On that field they will be victorious or die.'

The English archers commenced the attack with their usual bravery and dexterity. But against a force whose importance he had learned by fatal experience, Bruce was provided. A small but select body of cavalry were detached from the right under the command of Sir Robert Keith. They rounded the marsh called Milatoun bog, and, keeping the firm ground, charged the left flank and rear of the English archers. As the bowmen had no spears, nor long weapons fit to defend themselves against horse, they were instantly thrown into disorder, and spread through the whole English army a confusion, from which they never fairly recovered.

It is generally alleged by historians, that the English men-at-arms, fell into the hidden snare which Bruce had prepared for them. Barbour does not mention the circumstance. According to his account, Randolph, seeing the slaughter made by the cavalry on the right wing among the archers, advanced courageously against the main body of the English, and entered into close combat with them. Douglas and Stuart, who commanded the Scottish centre, led their divisions also to the charge, and the battle becoming general along the whole line, was obstinately maintained on both sides, for a long space of time; the Scottish archers doing great execution among the English men-at-arms, after the bowmen of England were dispersed.

When the engagement between the main bodies had lasted some time, Bruce made a decisive movement, by bringing up the Scottish reserve. It is traditionally said, that at this crisis, he addressed the Lord of the Isles, in a phrase used as a motto by some of his descendants, 'My trust is constant in thee.' Barbour intimates, that the reserve 'assembled on one field,' that is, in the same line with the Scottish forces already engaged, which leads Lord Hailes to conjecture, that the Scottish ranks must have been much thinned by slaughter, since, in that circumscribed ground, there was room for the reserve to fall into the line. But the advance of the Scottish cavalry must have contributed a good deal to form the vacancy occupied by the reserve.

The followers of the Scottish camp observed, from the Gillies hill in the rear, the impression produced upon the English army by the bringing up of the Scottish reserve, and, prompted by the enthusiasm of the moment, or the desire of plunder, assumed, in a tumultuary manner, such arms as they found nearest, fastened spears to tent-pole and lances, and showed themselves like a new army advancing to battle.

The unexpected apparition of what seemed a new army, completed the confusion which already prevailed among the English, who fled in every direction, and were pursued with immense slaughter. The brook of Bannock, according to Barbour, was so choked with the bodies of men and horses, that it might have been passed dry-shod. The followers of the Scottish camp fell upon the disheartened fugitives, and added to the confusion and slaughter. Many were driven into the Forth, and perished there, which, by the way, could hardly have happened, had the armies been drawn up east and west, since, in that case, to get at the river, the English fugitives must have fled through the victorious army. About a short mile from the field of battle, is a place called the Bloody Folds. Here the Earl of Gloucester is said to have made a stand, and died gallantly at the head of his own military tenants and vassals. He was much regretted on both sides; and, it is said, the Scottish would gladly have saved his life, but neglecting to wear his surcoat with armorial bearings over his armour, he fell unknown, after his horse had been stabbed with spears.

Sir Marmaduke Twenge, an English knight, contrived to conceal himself during the fury of the pursuit, and when it was somewhat slackened, approached King Robert. 'Whose prisoner are you, Sir Marmaduke?' said Bruce, to whom he was personally known. 'Your's, sir,' answered the knight. 'I receive you,' answered the king, and treating him with the utmost courtesy, loaded him with gifts, and dismissed him without ransom. The other prisoners were all well treated. There might be policy in this, as Bruce would naturally wish to acquire the good opinion of the English barons, who were at this time at great variance with their king. But it also well accords with his high chivalrous character.

Edward II. according to the best authorities, showed, in the fatal field of Bannock-burn, personal gallantry not unworthy of his great sire and greater son. He remained on the field till forced away by the Earl of Pembroke, when all was lost. He then rode to the castle of Stirling, and demanded admittance; but the governor, remonstrating upon the imprudence of shutting himself up in that fortress, which must so soon surrender, he assembled round his person five hundred men-at-arms, and avoiding the field of battle and the victorious army, fled towards Linlithgow, pursued by Douglas with about sixty horse. They were augmented by Sir Lawrence Abernethy with twenty more, whom Douglas met in the Torwood upon their way to join the English army, and whom he easily persuaded to desert the defeated monarch, and to assist in the pursuit. They hung upon Edward's flight as far as Dunbar, too few in number to assail him with effect, but enough to harass his retreat so constantly, that whoever fell an instant behind, was instantly slain or made prisoner. Edward's ignominious flight terminated at Dunbar, where the Earl of March, who still professed allegiance to him, 'received him full gently.' From thence the monarch of so great an empire, and the late commander of so gallant and numerous an army, escaped to Bamborough in a fishing vessel.

There were there slain, along with the Earl of Gloucester, forty-two barons and bannerets. The number of earls, barons, and bannerets made captive, was twenty-two, and sixty-eight knights. Many clerks and esquires were also there slain or taken, and soldiers innumerable.

THE SCOTS GUARDS AND THE SCOTS GENDARMES.

The first standing army in Europe was formed in France by Charles VII. in the year 1445, and it deserves to be remembered, that the company of Scots guards, and the company of Scots gendarmes, owed their institution to this prince. The knowledge of a standing force must, of consequence, have been known familiarly to the Scots in early times.

It happened, from the ancient intercourse between France and Scotland, that the natives of the latter kingdom had often distin-

guished themselves in the service of the former, particularly in saving France from being conquered by the English, by a force sent under the command of the Earl of Buchan. On this foundation these companies were instituted, and their fates cannot but be interesting to Scotsmen.

The Scot's guards were called the king's archers, because they attended his person, and because they were armed with bows and arrows. Their first commander, who is recorded as a person of great valour and military accomplishments, was Robert Patillock, a native of Dundee. This company was kept up in times of peace, as well as of war; and being ardent to distinguish itself, continued in great reputation, till the year 1578. From that period, the Scots guards were less attended to, and their privileges came to be invaded. In the year 1612, they remonstrated to Louis XIII. on the subject of the injustice they had suffered, and set before him the services they had rendered to the crown of France. Attempts were made to re-establish them on their ancient foundation, but no negotiation to this purpose was effectual. The troops of France were jealous of their honours. The death of Francis II. and the return of Mary to Scotland, at a time when they had much to hope, were unfortunate circumstances to them. The change of religion in Scotland, was a blow still more severe; and the accession of James VI. to the throne of England, disunited, altogether, the interests of France and Scotland. The Scots guards of France ultimately ceased to have any connexion with Scotland, but the name, which was kept up till the revolution.

The company of Scots gendarmes were also, originally, a part of the guard of Charles VII. and in this station they acted under other princes. It was their prerogative to take precedence of all the companies of the gendarmerie of France; and, on particular occasions, they even preceded the two companies of the king's mousquetaires. The sons of the Scottish monarchs were the usual captains of this company; and, after Mary's accession to the throne, its command belonged to them as a right. It was from thence that James VI. made a claim of it for his son, Prince Henry. This honour and its emoluments were also enjoyed by Charles I.; and the next in command to this Prince, was Louis Stuart, Duke of Lennox. George Gordon, Marquis of Huntley, succeeded the Duke of Lennox, in the year 1621, and took the title of captain, or commander in chief, when Charles I. mounted the English throne. It is not certain whether Charles II. was ever captain of this company; but it was conferred on his brother, the Duke of York, who chose rather to live and die a saint, than to support the grandeur of his ancestors, or to perish like a king, under the ruins of his throne. This man was captain of the Scots gendarmes till the year 1667, when he resigned his commission into the hands of the French king. After that time, no native of Great Britain enjoyed that command.

No want of Ministers somewhere—An honest man of Perth, being met on Sunday morning going from the church by his minister, was exhorting by 'O John, do not tru' the kirk, there will be no preaching in hell.' 'Indeed,' says John, 'it'll uae be for want o' ministers than.'

The Gate of Heaven.—When Lunardi went up in a balloon from Edinburgh, and alighted near a clergyman's house in Fifeshire, he said to the clergyman, 'we have been at the gate of heaven since we went up.' The clergyman replied, 'then it is a pity you did not go in, you may never be so near again.'

[To be continued hereafter.]